

**JANUARY 7, 2018
THE EPIPHANY OF
THE LORD**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'm always a bit depressed this time of the year. It's rather melancholy to see a Christmas tree dumped by the curb or witness people pulling down wreaths from the front door, or throwing poinsettias in the dumpster, or unplugging lights. There's no mistaking it, the Christmas season is coming to a close and the cold months are ahead. Sigh!

It is tempting to wrap up our holiday sentiments with all of the decorations; to put away the good feelings of the season along with the ornaments. But just when we thought it was over, along comes the Epiphany. Just when we thought it was time to get on with our lives and face the cold hard reality of winter...along come the magi, strangers from the East, with the question that hangs over this last Christmas moment; "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" If your answer is, "Wrapped in tissue paper in a box in the basement next to the exercise bike that we no longer use"...well, wrong answer.

In the popular imagination, the Christmas season is a time for sentimentality, and family, and sudden bursts of generosity. We feel the urge to slip on an apron and bake, or maybe even give gifts to strangers, or volunteer at a soup kitchen, or send an extra check to a favorite charity. We give tips to the doorman

and wish "Merry Christmas" to strangers, and offer warm greetings to people we normally would go out of our way to avoid. But so often, when the decorations come

down, so does our good will. Christmas is over. The holiday is done. Vacation is finished. It's back to the daily grind. Maybe this is why the magi appear on the scene here and now. We need to be asked now more than ever: where is the newborn king of the Jews? Where is Jesus Christ in our world? In our hearts? In our lives? Have we forgotten the deeper meaning of this season? Have we lost track of Jesus?

The magi, the Gospel tells us, had to search for him. The newborn king wasn't where they expected him to be. They didn't find him in a palace, among royalty. They had to go outside the city, and travel further, to an out-of-the-way place, guided by the light of a star. And there they found him, in a humble setting, with only his mother. Scripture tells us he came into a world that had no room for him, and that his first bed wasn't a bed at all, but a manger. He came into a world that didn't plan for him, or welcome him, and lived his first days among strangers.

Sometimes, Jesus isn't where we expect him to be. Which leads us to ask, in a more personal way: with the holidays ending, and the emotion of the season fading, what is left? Where is Jesus in our lives? This is a time to put away the ornaments and the lights. It's not a time to put away Christ. This is a time to remember what His coming meant to our world – and to hold on to the sense of charity, generosity, wonder, and joy that are the hallmarks of the Christmas season. How many times last month did we hear or read the phrase, "Keep Christ in Christmas." Well, that's just the beginning, what about the other 364 days? We need to keep him in every day, in every season.

Now that the celebration of His birth has ended, Christ's presence in our lives shouldn't be discarded or forgotten about, like a Christmas tree left at the curb. The question of the magi is the question all of us have to answer – and answer for. Not just this Sunday, the Epiphany, but every day. Where is the newborn king of the Jews? Where have we put Jesus in our world?

May God bless you,

Monsignor Hurley



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism Preparation Classes will be held on Sunday following the 10:00am Mass. The next class will take place on **Sunday, March 4** in the church. Do both parents have to attend the class? No, only one parent must attend, but it is highly encouraged that both do. Godparents are invited and encouraged to attend also. Please call the Parish Office to register. The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 11:00am.

VOCATION REFLECTION

In baptism, women and men are made part of the Body of Christ. God calls some of the baptized to serve the rest of His people as priests, sisters and brothers. Is He calling you? Think so? Unsure? Call Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations 302-573-3113, vocations@cdow.org. Be sure to visit our website: www.cdow.org/vocations

WHAT IS MEDITATION?

Meditation is a Christian practice of prayer dating back to the early church. As the Catechism states: "meditation is above all a quest. The mind seeks to understand the why and how of the Christian life, in order to adhere and respond to what the lord is asking." By meditating on the Gospels, holy icons, liturgical texts, spiritual writings, or "the great book of creation," we come to make our own that which is God's. "to the extent that we are humble and faithful, we discover in meditation the movements that stir the heart and we are able to discern them. It is a question of acting truthfully in order to come into the light: "lord, what do you want me to do?" (CCC 2705- 2706). Meditation is an essential form of Christian prayer, especially for those who are seeking to answer the vocational question, "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

LAST WEEKEND'S OFFERTORY

will be published in next week's bulletin
Thank you for your generosity

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 8

6:00pm – John Murray

Tuesday, January 9

8:00am – Nicholas Talmo, Sr.

Wednesday, January 10

8:00am – Greg Davis

Thursday, January 11

8:00am – Julia Panaccione

Saturday, January 13

5:00pm – Pietro & Rosina Pesce

Sunday, January 14

8:00am – James Saienni

10am – Mass for the People

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Marriage Moments: We humans mark time with watches and calendars. As we start a new year, however, perhaps it would be meaningful to enter into a conscious NOW with your beloved. As you read this, pause, find your spouse, and look at each other tenderly. Ponder the goodness of being together. Embrace.

Parenting Pointers:

Gazing at stars can be a wondrous experience. Look up at the sky with your child tonight. Hopefully you will see stars. Ponder the universe together.

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

All Saints, Cathedral and Gate of Heaven Cemeteries are offering families the option of purchasing winter grave decorations directly from the cemetery. Your selection will be placed by cemetery personnel on the graves that you specify on your order. For more information go online to cdow.org/cemeteries and click on the special notices tab. The brochure and order forms are available. You can also visit any of the cemetery offices. Office hours at Cathedral and

All Saints are 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Mon through Fri. Gate of Heaven hours are 9 a.m. until noon Mon- Thurs. Thank you for your support.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"They prostrated themselves and did him homage." As we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, let us give homage to the presence of God in our marriages by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) weekend. The next weekends are March 2-4 and November 2-4, 2018, in Rehoboth Beach, DE. For more information and to apply online visit www.wmw-delmar.org, or call Tony & Linda Massino at 302-220-9833.

MEMORIAL BRICKS

The five bricks, ordered last year, have been installed in the Memorial Walk at the front of the church. This is a great way to honor a loved one past or present, and it makes a great unusual Christmas gift. Go to the web site or call the rectory to place an order. Also, a great way to remember the original church, old school/ gym building is to buy a brick. This is a neat gift for an old alumnus. There are still bricks available at the rectory for pick up. This donation goes to the good work done by our Saint Vincent DePaul Society.

MARCH FOR LIFE

St. Thomas the Apostle Knights of Columbus has chartered a bus for people of all ages, weather permitting, for the **March for Life** held on Friday, January 19th. There will be a stop at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for those unable to make the March. Seats will be available on a first come basis. The only cost to the individual passenger is a tip for the bus driver. Please contact Theresa Collurafici at 12374Columbiettes@gmail.com or 302-322-2929 to sign up.

GOD IS ON THE AIR

Listen to Catholic Forum every Sunday morning at 10:05 a.m. on WDEL 101.7 FM, 1150 AM and www.wdel.com. Next Sunday, January 14th,

Mr. Mark Christian, Executive Director of Catholic Cemeteries for the Diocese of Wilmington will discuss cremation. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, podcasts and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at www.facebook.com/catholicforum.

THE EPIPHANY

The Epiphany is indeed a great Feast, and the joy caused us by the Birth of our Jesus must be renewed on it, for as though it were a second Christmas Day, it shows us our Incarnate God in a new light. It leaves us all the sweetness of the dear Babe of Bethlehem, who hath appeared to us already in love; but to this it adds its own grand manifestation of the divinity of our Jesus. At Christmas it was a few Shepherds that were invited by the Angels to go and recognize THE WORD MADE FLESH; but now, at the Epiphany, the voice of God himself calls the whole world to adore this Jesus, and hear him.

The mystery of the Epiphany brings upon us three magnificent rays of the Sun of Justice, our Savior. In the calendar of pagan Rome, this Sixth day of January was devoted to the celebration of a triple triumph of Augustus, the founder of the Roman Empire: but when Jesus, our Prince of peace, whose empire knows no limits, had secured victory to his Church by the blood of the Martyrs, then did this his Church decree that a triple triumph of the Immortal King should be substituted, in the Christian Calendar, for those other three triumphs which had been won by the adopted son of Caesar.

The Sixth of January, therefore, restored the celebration of our Lord's Birth to the Twenty-Fifth of December; but in return, there were united in the one same Epiphany three manifestations of Jesus' glory: the mystery of the Magi coming from the East, under the guidance of a star, and adoring the Infant of Bethlehem as the divine King; the mystery of the Baptism of Christ, who, whilst standing in the waters of the Jordan, was proclaimed by the Eternal Father as Son of God; and thirdly, the mystery of the divine power of this same Jesus, when he changed the water into wine at the marriage feast of Cana. - Excerpted from *The Liturgical Year* by Abbot Gueranger O.S.B.

< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today

The Epiphany of the Lord | Matthew 2:1-12

The 3 are called **wise men, kings, or magi** - they saw and understood that the baby Jesus was truly God. They took a different route home and did not go back to Herod.

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The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates God's revealing Himself to us in the baby Jesus.

CELEBRATE WITH A KING CAKE!



King Cake season goes from the Feast of the Epiphany through Shrove Tuesday (*Mardi Gras*). This round "crown" cake, represents the journey of the 3 kings, and is decorated in purple (*justice*), green (*faith*) and gold (*power*) icing or sugar. Some cakes have a hidden bean or tiny plastic baby hidden inside and the one who finds it is "crowned", or responsible for the next cake.

- INGREDIENTS -

1 cup milk (*scalded*)
1/3 cup butter
(*melted in milk*)

small bowl

1/4 cup warm water
1 package yeast
1 tsp. sugar

small bowl

2 eggs beaten
1/2 cup sugar
pinch salt

small bowl

Let all ingredients sit
about 15 minutes, add
to flour - mix well

4 cups flour

large bowl

SWEET as HONEY



Buy a king cake
online, at a local
store/bakery or
make your own.

- DIRECTIONS -

Knead on floured surface, 10 minutes (*add more flour if needed*). Rub dough ball with vegetable oil and place in covered oiled bowl in warm place to rise, 1 hour or double in size. Roll flat into rectangle and brush on oil or melted butter, sprinkle with sugar cinnamon. Roll into log starting on long edge. Form into ring (crown), pinch edges together and let rise on baking tray. Bake 350° for 15 - 20 minutes or until golden brown.

Colored sugar: In a jar add 1/2 cup sugar, 1-2 drops food color... green or yellow or red/blue (*purple*) and shake well. Decorate with green, purple & yellow (*gold*) cake icing and colored sugar. *This cake does not include a bean or baby, as in some traditions, due to choking hazard.*

